AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29: Canceled.

30. (Currently amended) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal without inducing hypertriglyceridemia, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having fewer than 299 amino acids, wherein said polypeptide comprises a region of at least 150 amino acids having at least [[80%]] 90% sequence identity to the corresponding region of amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~a mature, native, human apoE polypeptide~~ and that, when administered to or expressed in a mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter ~~and contained in an expression vector~~.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid is intravenously administered to said mammal in combination with a liposome and protamine.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid is contained in a recombinant viral vector.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is administered intravenously.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is administered by bone marrow transplantation.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is administered to an artery at the site of a lesion.

37. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is an adenoviral vector.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is an adeno-associated viral vector.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is a herpes viral vector.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is a retroviral vector.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said vector is a baculoviral vector.

43. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal lacks an endogenous, normally functioning apoE gene.

44. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal is at risk for developing atherosclerosis due to accumulation of lipoprotein remnants in the bloodstream.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein said mammal has a defect in remnant removal.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal lacks an endogenous, normally functioning low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor.

47. (Original) The method claim of 30, wherein said nucleic acid is administered to or expressed in the liver of said mammal.

Claims 48-49: Canceled.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide region has at least 90% sequence identity to a mature, native human apoE polypeptide.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide region has 100% sequence identity to a mature, native human apoE polypeptide.

Claim 52: Canceled.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide further comprises a signal peptide.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of between 150 and 215 amino acids.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of 203 amino acids.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-203 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of 220 amino acids.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-220 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of 247 amino acids.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-247 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide consists of 277 amino acids.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid encodes residues 1-277 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

Claim 63: Canceled.

64. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 63~~ claim 30, wherein said region is identical to amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said region has at

least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said region is identical to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide is apoE3-202.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said region has at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said region is identical to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said region has at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said region is identical to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said signal peptide comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

Claim 73: Canceled.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 75: Canceled.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said mammal is a human.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said mammal is a human.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said mammal is a human.